

NATIONAL MUSEUM. AND WEEKLY GAZETTE.

VOL. I

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1814.

No. 8.

FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM.

ENGINE, HOSE, &c. COMPANIES, AND PROPERTY GUARDS.

To subdue Conflagrations.

THE compounds which are most effectively useful for extinguishing destructive fires, must be easy to get ready, or made of materials easy to be procured and that will keep without injury; cheap and not liable to do mischief or occasion disagreeable accidents. Fires have been so dreadfully rife within a very short time, and the coldest season being but just commencing, I will at once break through the ordinary methodical order, and lay before the readers of The National Museum the items for composing a liquid easily managed and of the most powerful effect in subduing fire. I would recommend to the different fire companies to convince themselves by making the experiment on a small scale or a great one, and then to keep constantly by them, ready for use a quantity of the prepared liquid or of the ingredients ready to be mixed up, so that there may be no delay when there should arise an occasion to employ its efficacy. May GOD ALMIGHTY preserve all our good fellow-citizens from the ravages of the consuming element! And while we pray, let us be vigilant and prepared also.

In the quantity of one hogshead of water, or a few gallons more, mix up twenty pounds of clay, (potters' clay, brick clay, pipe clay, or any other clayey earth.)

Pour thereupon successively, or slow and gradually, from eight to ten quarts of sulphuric acid, commonly called oil of vitriol, and thereupon add eight to ten quarts, or sixteen to twenty pounds common salt, or a proportion of brine equal to so much.

The mixture is then made up for use. It will require to be stirred up. Use as is most judicious with common water, spreading it quickly and dexterously over all the fiercely-burning surface. I shall proceed in this important subject in my next numbers. Meantime this first receipt becoming an object of experimental test, for it can be tried in a corresponding proportion of quarts and ounces, in any workshop, kitchen or forge, will serve the first civic purpose, and prepare the public mind for what is to follow.

AQUARIUS.

Documents

ON THE SUBJECT OF PEACE.

The following highly important message and documents were yesterday transmitted by the President of the U. States to both Houses of Congress.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 7.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

I transmit for the information of congress, copies of a letter from the British secretary of state for foreign affairs to the secretary of state, with the answer of the latter.

In appreciating the accepted proposal of the government of Great Britain for instituting negociations for peace, congress will not fail to keep in mind that vigorous preparations for carrying on the war, can in no respect impede the progress to a favourable result, whilst a relaxation of such preparations, should the wishes of the United States for a speedy restoration of the blessings of peace be disappointed, would necessarily have the most injurious consequences.

January 6, 1814.

JAMES MADISON.

Lord Castlereagh to the Secretary of State.

FOREIGN OFFICE Nov. 4, 1814.

SIR, ... I have the honour to inclose to you for the information of the president of the United States, a copy of a note which his Britannic majesty's ambassador at the court of St. Petersburg was directed to present to the Russian government, as soon as his royal highness the prince regent was informed that plenipotentiaries had been nominated on the part of the American government for the purpose of negotiating for peace with Great Britain under the mediation of his imperial majesty.

His lordship having by the last courier from the imperial head quarters, acquainted me that the American commissioners now at St. Petersburg have intimated, in reply to this overture, that they had no objection to a negociation at London, and were equally desirous, as the British government had declared itself to be, that this business should not be mixed with the affairs of the continent of Europe, but that their powers were limited to negotiate under the mediation of Russia.

Under these circumstances, and in order to avoid an unnecessary continuance of the calamities of war, the prince regent commands me to transmit, by flag of truce, to the American port nearest to the seat of government, the official note above mentioned, in order that the president, if he should feel disposed to enter upon a direct negotiation for the restoration of peace between the two states, may give his directions accordingly.

In making this communication, I can assure you that the British government is willing to enter into a discussion with the government of America for the conciliatory adjustment of the differences subsisting between the two states, with an earnest desire on their part to bring them to a favourable issue, upon principles of perfect reciprocity not inconsistent with the established maxims of public law, and with the maritime rights of the British empire.

The admiral commanding the British squadron on the American station will be directed to give the necessary protection to any persons proceeding to Europe, on the part of the government of the United States, in furtherance of this overture; or should the American government have occasion to forward orders to their commission at St. Petersburg, to give the requisite facilities by cartel or otherwise, for the transmission of the same.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration, Sir, your most obedient servant.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH

(ENCLOSURE ALLUDED TO ABOVE.)

Translation of a note from Lord Cathcart, to the Count de Nesselrode, dated TOPLITZ, 1st SEPT. 1813.

The undersigned ambassador of his Britannic majesty to the emperor of all the Russias, desiring to avail himself of the first occasion to renew the subject respecting America, which was brought into discussion in a conference at the moment of departure from Reichenbach, has the honor to address this note to his excellency the count de Nesselrode.

Although the prince regent, for reasons which have already been made known, has not found himself in a situation to accept the mediation of his imperial majesty for terminating the discussions with the United States of America, his royal highness desires nevertheless to give effect to the beneficent wishes which his imperial majesty has expressed, of seeing the war between Great Britain and America soon terminated to the mutual satisfaction of the two governments.

With this view, his royal highness having learned that the envoys plenipotentiary of the United States for negotiating a peace with Great Britain under the mediation of his imperial majesty, have arrived in Russia, notwithstanding that he finds himself under the necessity of not accepting the interposition of any friendly power in the question which forms the principal object of dispute between the two states, he is nevertheless, ready to nominate plenipotentiaries to treat directly with the American plenipotentiaries.

His royal highness sincerely wishes, that the conferences of these plenipotentiaries may result in re-establishing between the two nations, the blessing and reciprocal advantages of peace.

If through the good offices of his imperial majesty, this proposition should be accepted, the prince regent would prefer that the conferences should be held at London, on account of the facilities which it would give to the discussions.

But if this choice should meet with insuperable obstacles, his royal highness would consent to substitute Gottenburg as the place nearest to England.

The undersigned &c.

(Signed)

CATHCART.

The U. S. Secretary of State to Lord Castlereagh.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, JAN. 1814

MY LORD--I have had the honour to receive by a flag of truce your lordship's letter of the 4th Nov. last, and a copy of a note which his Britannic majesty's ambassador at the court of St. Petersburg presented to the Russian government on the first of September preceding.

By this communication it appears that his royal highness the prince regent rejected the mediation offered by his imperial majesty to promote peace between the United States and Great Britain, but proposed to treat directly with the United States at Gottenburg or London, and that he had requested the interposition of the good offices of the emperor in favour of such an arrangement.

Having laid your lordship's communication before the president, I am instructed to state, for the information of his royal highness the prince regent, that the president has seen with regret this new obstacle to the commencement of a negotiation for the accommodation of differences between the United States and Great Britain. As the emperor of Russia was distinguished for his rectitude and impartiality, and was moreover engaged in a war as the ally of England, whereby it was his interest to promote peace between the United States and Great Britain, the president could not doubt that his royal highness the prince regent would accept the mediation which his imperial majesty had offered them. It was the confidence with which the high character of the emperor inspired the president, that induced him, disregarding considerations which a more cautious policy might have suggested, to accept the overture with promptitude and to send ministers to St. Petersburg, to take advantage of it. It would have been very satisfactory to the president, if his royal highness the prince regent had found it compatible with the views of Great Britain to adopt a similar measure, as much delay might have been avoided, in accomplishing an object, which, it is admitted is of high importance to both nations.

The course proposed as a substitute for negotiations at St. Petersburg, under the auspices of the emperor of Russia, could not, I must remark to your lordship, have been required for the purpose of keeping the United States unconnected

against Great Britain, with any affairs of the continent. There was nothing in the proposed mediation tending to such a result.—The terms of the overture indicated the contrary. In offering to bring the parties together, not as umpire, but as a common friend, to discuss and settle their differences and respective claims, in a manner satisfactory to themselves, his imperial majesty showed the interest he took in the welfare of both parties.

Wherever the United States may treat, they will treat with the sincere desire they have repeatedly manifested, of terminating the present contest with Great Britain on conditions of reciprocity consistent with the rights of both parties as sovereign and independent nations, and calculated not only to establish present harmony, but to provide, as far possible, against future collisions which might interrupt it.

Before giving an answer to the proposition communicated by your lordship, to treat with the U. S. independently of the Russian mediation, it would have been agreeable to the president to have heard from the plenipotentiaries of the U. States sent to St. Petersburg. The offer of a mediation by one power, and the acceptance of it by another, forms a relation between them, the delicacy of which cannot but be felt. From the known character of the emperor, and the benevolent views with which his mediation was offered, the president cannot doubt that he will see with satisfaction a concurrence of the United States, in an alternative, which, under existing circumstances, affords the best prospect of obtaining speedily what was the object of his interposition. I am accordingly instructed to make known to your lordship, for the information of his royal highness the prince regent, that the president accedes to his proposition, and will take the measures depending on him for carrying it into effect at Gottenburg, with as little delay as possible; it being presumed, that his majesty the king of Sweden, as the friend of both parties, will readily acquiesce in the choice of a place for their pacific negotiations, within his dominions.

The president is duly sensible of the attention of his royal highness the prince regent, in giving orders to the admiral commanding the British squadron on this coast, which your lordship has communicated.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JAMES MONROE.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

Of the physical, economical & moral forces of Napoleon, in the years 1812 & 1813.

JANUARY, 1812.

1.—Napoleon was in absolute possession of the French Empire, the kingdom of Italy, Illyria, and the northern part of Spain.

2.—He was indirectly master of the states of the confederation of the Rhine, of Prussia, of the kingdom of Naples, and the grand duchy of Warsaw. He had possession of the fortresses on the Oder, and a limited alliance with Denmark.

3.—Austria dreaded his power; her military system was reduced; circumstances rendered her his ally; she consented to give him 30,000 men.

4.—Russia kept her ports shut: she had 120,000 men upon her frontier to defend her independence; but she was at war with England and the Porte, and soon after with Sweden.

5.—This latter power was in a state of neutrality with France, and Napoleon offered her subsidies to induce her to declare herself for him.

6.—Napoleon had an army of 500,000 veterans upon the Oder and the Vistula to attack Russia; this war has drawn more than 600 millions out of his treasury, and 2,000 pieces of artillery from his arsenals. The Poles supplied him with 80,000 men and 100 millions. He brought into the war 70,000 cavalry.

7.—Napoleon had in his own hands the monopoly of colonial produce throughout continental Europe. This monopoly brought him 100 millions.

8.—Napoleon drew contributions from Austria, from Prussia, and from Illyria. He had the revenue of all Italy, from the confederacy of Germany, from Poland and that of the French empire, which amounted to nearly 1,000 millions tournois. Notwithstanding those resources, the deficiency for the year 1812 was doubled.

9.—Notwithstanding the battles of Aspern and of Eylau, Napoleon had preserved the reputation of being invincible; he enjoyed an opinion that nothing could resist him; it was sufficient for him to order, and every thing gave way to his will—to order, and it was done; to direct, and every thing bended to his wish; to announce an event, and the prediction was fulfilled. Spain alone formed an exception, which, however, had not dissipated the belief.

August, 1813.

1.—Napoleon loses a part of the 32d military division, a part of Illyria, all Spain, and the Dalmatian Islands.

2.—Prussia, Mecklenburgh, and the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, are no longer his dependents. Prussia and Mecklenburg are, on the contrary, in arms against him.

3.—Austria has an army of upwards of 400,000 men, she is no longer allied to France, but has acceded to the new alliance against her.

4.—Russia has beyond her frontiers 200,000 men: she occupies the grand duchy of Warsaw; her ports are open; she is united with England, Prussia, Sweden, and Spain; she is at peace with Turkey, which considerably increases her moral force; and it has been proved by acts that she cannot be conquered.

5.—Sweden having entered into the new war, furnishes more than 30,000 men, who are acting on the continent.

6.—The 500,000 veterans of Napoleon have disappeared; he has lost all his cavalry, several marshals, 80 generals; of this army only some thousands of officers remain to him. The cannon, army-effects, the 600 millions are lost, with the

Prussian and Polish contingents—he has only of the latter 15,000 men, with the maledictions of the country.

7.—That monopoly has almost entirely disappeared, since the ports of Russia and Prussia have been opened, the war terminated between the Russians and Turks, and the English occupied all the Dalmatian Islands.

8.—The Austrian, Polish, and Prussian contributions have ceased—Ilyria is exhausted—the war and army expenses have doubled. What then will be the deficit for the year 1813? There no longer exists a continental system against England; it is in fact destroyed.

9.—The battle of Smolensko, of Borodino, of Krasnoi, of Lutzen, and all the last campaigns prove, that with inferior forces he can be resisted, and beaten, and that consequently he must be beaten with equal forces, and destroyed with superior ones.

From this comparative statement it results, that, Napoleon's power and glory have insensibly declined, since the year 1812. His army had then besides 110,000 auxiliaries, 50,000 Poles, 30,000 Prussians, and 30,000 Austrians. His enemy now has an auxiliary force of 33,000 viz. 20,000 Austrians, 100,000 Prussians, and 30,000 Swedes. His revenues have decreased 100 millions, and the diminutions will be still greater if we take into consideration what he drew by requisitions from Prussia, and the countries of the confederation of the Rhine and the war contributions of Russia, Poland and Austria.

*Supplement to the Imperial Petersburg Gazette,
21st, September 1813.*

Russian Interference.

Whatever may be our opinion of "The Russian Mediation," as an isolated political transaction, the general policy of Russia is clear, and we are in possession of important facts in relation to the recent deportment of the emperor towards the governments both of the United States and Great Britain. The ideas of the governments of Russia, Sweden, and indeed of all the powers of continental Europe, do not by any means correspond with those of Great Britain, upon some important points connected with the great subjects of maritime and neutral rights. The northern powers are still partial to the principles of the celebrated "Armed Neutrality," Great Britain has been made to understand this most distinctly. But Alexander has been long determined to be faithful, at all events, to those engagements with Great Britain which have resulted from the common danger to which his own empire and that of Great Britain were exposed, from the.....ambition of the "ruler of France." Success will not change his conduct. He is too wise to engage in the splendid but romantic project, so familiar in our own country, that of prostrating the power of Great Britain upon the ocean. He will preserve with that country a friendship, originating in the

purest principles, and consecrated by the most glorious triumphs; but he will undoubtedly endeavour to persuade her to modify, in such a manner as to render it acceptable to other naval powers, one at least of her high maritime pretensions. This the British regent knows full well, and hence the dark allusion, in his speech to parliament, to the Russian mediation, of which he says he could not "avail himself consistently with a due attention to the interests of his majesty's subjects." Alexander almost idolizes the character and memory of Washington, and he possesses sentiments of affection for the country of Washington, which are not merely sincere and warm, but in some degree enthusiastic. Of this the present president of the United States has been assured, in a manner as flattering to himself, as the chief magistrate of a great and free people in the new world, as it is honourable to the greatest monarch in the old world.

We are not at liberty to publish even one of the numerous particular facts of which we are in possession, in relation to the great concern to which we have alluded. The American people can never know the minute circumstances by means of which the emperor Alexander has manifested the deep interest which he feels in their welfare. But we presume that their minds are prepared to believe the general fact; and we are confident that, considering the great influence which the late events in Europe must give to that emperor, as it regards both Great Britain and the United States, they are intelligent enough to anticipate the probable consequences.—*True American.*

Learning per the principle of ascension.

The German paedagogic Magazine, vol. 3, page 407, mentions, as having died lately in Suabia, a schoolmaster of renown hardly inferior to the great Dr. Busby, so well known in the traditions of Westminster whipsters. This paragon of magisters sagely preferred incontrovertible convincings in all cases, and the *argumenta ad hominem* to many words and troublesome explanations. He pursued the old custom *con amore*; for he admired Spartan discipline, next to the rudiments, above all things. According to an average of recorded observations made by one of his ushers, it is calculated to a probability not exaggerated, that in the course of his instruction in the *humanities* (reader such is literally the name for this venerable mode of instruction in the venerable languages Latin, Greek, &c.) he had given demonstrative lessons, in the space of fifty-one years, to the amount of 911,500 canings, 124,000 floggings, 209,000 private whippings, 136,000 sore fingers with the ruler, and the take *pains* of 22,700 tasks for memory. It was further calculated that he had made 700 boys stand bare-footed on peas, 600 kneel on the sharp edge of a board, 500 wear the fool's cap, and 1700 hold the rod. How vast the quantity of human misery inflicted by a single perverse instructor!

RETAILERS.

In Cities, Towns or Villages, containing, within the limits of one square mile, more than one hundred Families.

On merchandize, including wines and spirits,	25
On wines alone,	20
On spirits alone,	20
On domestic spirits alone,	15
On merchandize other than wines and spirits,	15

In any other place than Cities, Towns or Villages.

On merchandize, including wines and spirits,	15
On wines and spirits,	15
On spirits alone,	12
On domestic spirits alone,	10
On merchandize other than wines and spirits,	10

STILLS OR BOILERS FOR DISTILLING.

On Stills employed in distilling from Domestic Materials,
For 2 Weeks, 9 Cents on each Gallon of the capacity of
the Still, including the head thereof.

For 1 Month, 18 Cents,	For 2 Months, 32 Cents,
For 3 Months, 42 Cents,	For 4 Months, 52 Cents,
For 6 Months, 70 Cents,	For 1 Year, 108 Cents,

On Stills employed in distilling from Roots.

One half the rates above mentioned.

On Stills employed in distilling from Foreign Materials.
For 1 Month, 25 Cents on each Gallon of the capacity of
the Still, including the head thereof.

For 3 Months, 60 Cents,
For 6 Months, 105 Cents,
For 1 Year, 135 Cents,

On all Boilers used for the purpose of generating steam in distilleries, where wooden or other vessels are used instead of metal stills, and the action of steam is substituted instead of the immediate application of fire:

Estimated according to its capacity, including the head thereof, double the amount is to be paid on such boiler, as

that which would be payable on a still of the same capacity to which an immediate application of fire is made.

Distillers licensed as such are permitted to sell in their own distilleries quantities as small as five gallons of spirits of their own distilling, but not less, unless they take out a retailer's license likewise.

SUGARS REFINED.

On all Sugars refined 4 cents per lb.

The several Acts of Congress, passed at their last session laying certain internal duties, take effect from and after the 31st day of December, 1813, the provisions must be complied with, on pain of incurring the penalties and forfeitures attached to a violation thereof. These provisions require,

Retailers of Wines, Spirituous Liquors, or Foreign Merchandise, to make application to the Collector in writing, for, and to obtain a license from him.

Owners or Superintendants of Stills, or Distilling Boilers, intended to be worked, to make application, in writing, for, and to obtain a license;

Auctioneers to enter into bonds, and under certain circumstances to take out a license;

Refiners of Sugar to enter into bonds;

Owners or keepers of Carriages to enter their declaration of the same, and obtain a certificate of the payment of the duty.

Persons interested may examine the laws laying on these duties at the Collector's office, where the mode of making application and all other particulars necessary for them to understand may be learned.

Certified accurate, Jan. 5, 1813.

S. H. MOORE,

Collector of Int. Taxes, Baltimore, Office, 22, Washington Square.

IMPORT DUTIES.

By Act of Congress of July 1, 1812, all the permanent import duties have been doubled, since the date thereof.

By Act of July 29, 1813, salt imported on or from the first of January, 1814, pays a duty of 20 cents per bushel, estimated 56lb. In pursuance to an act of congress past last session, a drawback of 20 cents per barrel of fish pickled with foreign salt, is to be allowed after export on and after the first day of January, 1815, payable in six months from the date of the exportation, as an equivalent bounty for the duty on the presumed proportion of salt used therein, and supposed to have been paid in the course of the previous year; but this bounty is not allowed unless the quantity exported at one time together, amounts to the claim of at least ten dollars, nor until a certificate of landing in a foreign port shall be produced to the collector of the port in the United States where the said export shall have been made, in the manner prescribed by the law.

Examined by request at the Collector's Office of the Port of Baltimore, January 5, 1814.

J. BRICE, jr. Deputy Collector.

Note. Allowances from 160 cents to four dollars per ton, payable December 31st annually during the war, &c. is allowed for fishing cod at sea four months on the banks, in vessels from five to 20 tons, 20 to 30 tons, and 30 upwards, and salting and curing dry, fit for exportation, twelve quintals for every ton of the vessel's measurement, to be divided as fares, three-eighths to the owner and five-eighths to crew, and in all not to exceed two hundred and seventy-two dollars in one season.

** SALT made in the U. S. is free of all duty, but fish salted with it is entitled to no bounty.*

Account of the capture of Niagara.

Gen. Drummond, with between ten and eleven hundred regular troops, 200 Canadian militia, and 250 Indians landed soon after midnight at Five Mile Meadow, from seven boats which they had brought with them by sleighs from Burlington Heights.—The regular troops consisted of a part of the 100th regt. part of a regiment of Scotch royals, and a few of the 49th. After they had landed, orders were given and preparations made for attacking Fort Niagara with the first appearance of day-light, and in the mean time col. Murray, with five or 600 regulars was sent to reconnoitre. Instead of returning with intelligence as was expected, by day-light in the morning col. Murray sent word to gen. Drummond that he had taken the fort—that two of the Scotch royals had surprized our outmost sentinel, and compelled him to communicate the countersign, with which they had been able to enter the gate of the fort without opposition; that after he had entered the gate he had little difficulty in possessing himself of the place; that not much American blood was spilt—and that the assailants had not a man killed, the colonel himself was wounded in the right arm. A stone house and two others were saved at Lewiston; the British have in their possession a considerable number of men, women and children as prisoners, whom they have placed in a building near the fort, around which they have placed a guard of regular troops. Some of our people were murdered by the Indians, but we learn not near so many as we have supposed.—*Ontario Repository.*

Gen. McClure states, in an official letter to the secretary at war, that capt. Leonard, commandant of Niagara, left the fort about eleven o'clock on the night it was captured, and is now with his family on the Canadian side, having "given himself up to the enemy."

British designs against New Orleans.

There are arguments in our colonial journals, tending to prove that there exists a necessity for our government's taking possession of the province of New Orleans. We extract the following observations on that subject:—"If G. Britain will only take New Orleans, she will divide the states. By shutting that outlet to the fruits of western industry, she will make herself known and respected by those states, in spite of the rest of the Union. If in the war of 1755, France had been as superior at sea, as Britain then was, we should never have heard of the United States of America. The back country would have been as well settled before this with Frenchmen, as it now is with the descendants of Britons. We ought at present to take the benefit of former lessons, and make those people our friends when so much is in our power. Take New Orleans, which is at the threshold of our West India islands, and which could furnish them with provisions at half the price they have been accustomed to pay. By such conduct firm allies would be created on the continent, our West India planters

would be gratified, and the integrity of the Spanish dominions in America guaranteed from traitorous insults."—*London Courier, June 17, 1813.*

John Horne Tooke Esq.

The death of this remarkable personage is not an occurrence of every day; it is the death of a man, who in the period in which he has lived, and to the extent of the sphere which he has filled, has been more active and more conspicuous than any other person now living.—From the commencement of the reign of his present Britannie majesty to the day of Horne Tooke's death, scarcely has any public occurrence passed in which he has not had a greater share than belonged to his mere private station. He has accordingly been the most active individual in a period of general activity. He has lived in more revolutions of politics and parties than any other man of the day, and in all of them have his talents or his intrigue, his good or bad intentions, and indefatigable spirit and exertions, rendered him an actor.

Mr. Horne Tooke was originally a clergyman. He assumed the name of Tooke in addition to his previous family name and became a member of parliament, but was not allowed to sit long; the clergy being represented as such, in the upper house of parliament, by the bishops. Horne Tooke was the author of the celebrated "Diversions of Purley," and latterly the supposed guiding friend of sir Francis Burdett.

Historical Paradoxes.

London publications inform us that one English clergyman is preparing a book which will prove that Horne Tooke was the author of Junius's Letters, and that another is engaged in a work which exculpates the Jews from the charge of having crucified our Saviour, and proves his death to have been solely the act of the Roman government.—(We are reminded of the historical doubts on Richard III. Robespierre, and Sylla.) Those persons who have read the correspondence between Tooke and "Junius," and who have studied the Testament, although they may be astonished at both undertakings just mentioned, may perhaps not find it difficult to determine which requires the most literary temerity.

A comprehensive analysis of the additional tax-laws, is concluded in this number. The importance of an accurate exhibit to merchants, lawyers, mechanics and persons in business, has induced the Editor to make the investigation an object of his study. Congress are now engaged in revising certain parts, which, it is thought, require to be more exactly defined. We have in the press, waiting for the ultimate information to print and distribute to our subscribers, on one separate page, a tariff abstract of war tax-laws, with the explanations or amendments now pending.

Of subjects inferior to negotiations between nations, and treaties, there is not one which requires a perfect knowledge of the language, lucid thoughts and determinative enuncia-

tion, more than the preparation and drafting of laws. A thorough understanding of all the usages and accidents of our living and obsolete idioms, provincial and principal; of all the susceptibilities of expression and interpretation; and of the distinct, full and various bearings of every term, in each possible order or situation, is indispensable at every step,—for the consequences are serious and may amount to obstruction of the national service. And exact printing is of the utmost consequence. We have followed the letter of the law, in every particular, but the section relating to distillation by the intermediate effect of steam. In that point we have given what we have authority to understand is the spirit and intention of the law in fewer words. They are *literatim*—“where . . . the action of steam is substituted to the immediate application of fire to the materials from whence the spirituous liquors are distilled”—“still or stills to the constituents of which, being the materials from whence the spirituous liquors are drawn, an immediate application of fire during the process of distillation is made.”

RAISED TO THE LIFE THAT LASTS.

How shocking must thy summons be, O Death!
To him that is at ease in his possessions!
Who counting on long years of pleasure here,
Is quite unfurnish'd for the world to come.

In that dread moment, how the frantic soul
Raves round the walls of her clay tenement,
Runs to each avenue and shrieks for help!
But shrieks in vain. How wistfully she looks
On all she's leaving, now no longer hers!

A little longer!—yet, a little longer!

—O might she stay to wash away her stains,
And fit her for her passage!

On the 12th inst. Mr. William Hayward, “a minister of the society of friends,” aged 77. In Philadelphia on the 2d inst. Robert Patton, Esq. Postmaster since 1789, age 59. Germantown, Philadelphia, Mr. John Cook, 91. On the 16th Nov. ult. in Fairfax co. Virginia, Mr. Philip Chull, a native of Germany, aged 115. He enjoyed good health to nearly the moment of his death. He came to this country in 1721. At Danvers, the widow of judge Hatter, 97. Tymingham, Mr. Stephen Taylor, 93. Marblehead, Mrs. Abigail Hendley, 96. Near Charleston, S. C. Mrs. Mary Baldrick, 99. In N. Jersey, Mr. Michael Rusch, a native of Germany, 105.

MARRIED.

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 5, by the most rev. archbishop Carroll, Robert Y. Brent of Washington city, Esq. to Miss Eliza Carrere, daughter of John Carrere, Esq. of this city. Thursday 6th, Mr. G. Ridgely of this city, to Miss Harriet Talbott. Mr. Richard W. Garretson of this city, to Miss Elizabeth F. Osborne. Mr. Daniel Richardson of this city, to Miss Ann D. Swarts. 13th. Mr. John W. Stump to Miss Sarah Biays, of this city.

Political and Miscellaneous.

The Indians friendly to America on the southern frontier, under the Big Warrior, have defeated the hostile Indians there in a general engagement. 3000 able-bodied friendly warriors have come into Cowetau. The lower chiefs vouch for the friendly conduct of the Florida Indians. A heavy cannonading was heard near the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa, about ten days after the battle of Autossa, from twelve o'clock till sunset: supposed to have been a battle fought by gen. Flournoy and an expedition of troops from Fort Stoddart.

The republican insurgents in South America are becoming stronger in many places: Acapulco, the principal port of Mexico is in their hands. The Caracas, Coro, Santa Fe, and all Venezuela are again in revolt, &c. &c. according to accounts said to have been received by late letters at New Orleans.—Pamplona in Old Spain is said to have surrendered to the allies.

On our north frontiers numbers of patriotic young men have volunteered their services, and are marching to the defence of Erie.

The British flag of truce Bramble sailed from Annapolis on the 11th, with the answer of our secretary of state to the dispatches of the British; and dispatches from our government to the American ministers in Europe.

Mr. Cheves of S. C. and colonel Monroe, are each spoken of as the minister who will probably be sent to act with Mr. Bayard in Gottenburg, in the business of negotiating for a peace.

Mr. Gallatin has not arrived, as stated on our coffee-house books on the authority of “several express.” The public mind is anxious for the last intelligence up to the date of the Bramble’s sailing from England. Speculation is stagnated. The *donnees* are not considered sufficiently decisive for calculation.

Virginia as well as Pennsylvania has assumed the payment of its state quota of direct taxes. The committee of the house of delegates of Maryland have reported against paying the quota out of the treasury of this state.

The number of British troops landed at Pensacola is stated at 2000.

Generals Winder, Winchester, Chandler, and all the American officers in Canada are said to be confined in close jail as hostages for the British officers, &c. in close confinement in the United States.

A greater number of banks, and with a greater amount of obligation capital, are now under proposition, principally in the middle states, than ever known at any former period. It is said that one has offered to advance government fifteen millions of dollars on obtaining a charter. Some of these companies propose to employ their immense facilities of payment, in the establishment of manufactories in various situations in the country. * * * * *

UNA REQUIESCANT IN URNA.

THE SNOW-STORM. ELEGY.

The day was so dreary, the wind from the east,
The cold it was pinching to man and to beast,
And the clouds seem'd to labour with snow;
When William had drove all his flock to the farm,
To shelter them well, and to keep them from harm,
For he saw by the skies it would soon be a storm,
And he thought it would bluster and blow.
And now, said the shepherd, my flock is all sure,
My cows from the fell, and my bleaters secure,
Besides, it is Saturday night;
And if I should loiter and stay me away,
And not see my Mary! ah! what might she say?
She might think that her William was going to stray,
She might think it was coldness or spite.
He whistled on Tinker; he threw round his plaid,
Nor fear'd the dark night while he sought the dear maid,
Full oft had he trampled that way;
The snow, how it drifted! and how the wind blew!
But what is a storm to a lover that's true?
What was danger or snow should he meet but with you!
Sweet Mary!—thy presence was May.
Away as he hied, thought no ill could betide,
And his poor faithful friend trudging close by his side,
Why, they had no great distance to roam;
Through the waste, and the woodland, and turning the stile,
The whole of the journey was scarcely a mile;
Let me see but my Mary! one kiss, and a smile!—
And then I'll return to my home.
Come, Tinker! come near me! for fear should you stray,
The snow it grows deeper, more trackless the way,
And I wish not to leave you behind;
If Tinker should tarry my Mary would sigh,
How she calls you 'dear fellow' and watches your eye,
How she pats on your head when she bids you good bye,
Her heart is so tender and kind!
More dark grew the night, and more fierce the wind blew,
When the church on the hill was first snatch'd from his view,
Yet he thought that he heard the church bell!
Come Tinker before me and find out the way,
For Mary will wonder what makes us to stay!
Because travellers in winter are apt for to stray,
Such stories of pilgrims folks tell!
His humble companion, the snow-drift among,
Bark'd loud as he cheer'd his lov'd master along,
For no moon nor a star could be seen;
Away then they wander'd, benumb'd, and so chill,
And no more saw the church on the top of the hill,
Or the light that had gleam'd from the house at the mill,
And the frost it was nipping and keen;

He dreaded the cliff that hung over the wave,
And the half frozen pool, oft the wanderer's grave;
Then breathless and pale with the blast—
"Thou Father Almighty! thou Ruler on high,
Whose storms shake the ocean, the earth and the sky;
O!—protect but my love, and contented—I die!"
Thus he prayed, and—these words were his last!
To the lone humble cottage where Mary, forlorn,
By hopes and by fears was alternately torn,
Poor Tinker ran swift for relief;
He paw'd at the threshold, he fawn'd at her foot,
Now howling with anguish, now prostrate and mute—
"Twould have melted a satyr to see the dumb brute,
But Mary was frantic with grief;
"This mantle, his present—shall shroud my cold form,
And I'll search for my love in the depth of the storm,
Come, Tinker, come show where he lies;
Last night how I dream'd that my William was here!
All blyth, and so gay, like the spring of the year,
Ah me! how his voice seem'd to thrill in my ear,
I did feast on the glance of his eyes!"
She wrapp'd round her mantle—to shroud her cold form,
And her soft flowing locks wav'd abroad to the storm,
Till icicles hung from her hair;
That bosom! where William, oft favour'd reclin'd,
Was rudely caress'd by the rough piercing wind;
Yet still as it panted—it brought him to mind;
For deep was his love printed there!
She paus'd as she pass'd where the hawthorn-tree grew,
For first in its shade had he vow'd to be true,
And she sigh'd as she bade it adieu.
She stalk'd to the cliff that hung over the wave,
And the half frozen pool, now the wanderer's grave,
The snow drifted round her,—one shriek more she gave,
"Now William, I slumber with you!"
Three days and three nights the loud tempest did last,
Nor yet shrunk from the weather, nor scar'd by the blast,
Poor Tinker was faithful till death;
He watch'd o'er the spot where the lovers were laid,
Where William was found in the arms of the maid,
On the hand that had fed him he dropp'd his cold head,
And gasping, resign'd his last breath;
In sorrowful dirge they were borne to their home,
And many a villager mourn'd at their tomb,
And wept ere they bade it adieu.
And you who may read the sad tale I relate,
Should you e'er love like them may you ne'er meet their fate,
But know from their virtues their bliss is complete,
And learn from A DOG to be true.

DOCTOR TROTTER.